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Forest Service NEWS



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AUG 9 '88

FINAL ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR SPOTTED OWL HABITAT MANAGEMENT RELEASED

Portland, August 2--The Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) addressing standards and guidelines for managing the habitat of the spotted owl on National Forests in Oregon and Washington is being released this week by the US Forest Service Pacific Northwest Region. A decision on the alternatives in the FEIS will be made after a thirty day public review period.

According to Regional Forester Jim Torrence, "This document bridges our path from draft to final Forest Plans on the 13 forests that contain spotted owls by presenting the best alternatives for spotted owl habitat management."

The FEIS addresses seven alternative approaches to maintaining the viability of spotted owls in concert with other uses of Forest resources. The selected alternative will supplement the regional guide for forest planning, which was published in 1984, by providing immediate direction for spotted owl habitat management on the 13 National Forests that have spotted owls. This direction will be incorporated into Forest Plans as they are completed within the next year.

Because of the great public interest in the spotted owl, Forest Service Chief F. Dale Robertson is giving the public additional time to review and comment on the FEIS before making a final decision on the alternatives. The comment period begins August 12 and will last 30 days. During this time the public is invited to review the documents at any of the 19 National Forest offices in Oregon and Washington.

Written comments on the FEIS may be mailed to Regional Forester, US Forest Service Pacific Northwest Region, P.O. Box 3623, Portland, OR 97208, ATTN: Spotted Owl Team.

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